REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending and rejected in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 10-20 are being amended. Claims 21-26 are being added. Claims 1-26 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al. (U.S. 6,658,526, hereinafter Nguyen) in view of Shank et al. (US. 6,145,028, hereinafter Shank).

Nguyen discloses a method for create a virtual tape device in accordance with the user requests. The virtual tape device comprises one or more physical tape devices, each tape devices composes a redundant arrays of inexpensive tapes (RAIT). When an application program in the host (data processor [DP1-4] in the embodiment of Nguyen) makes a request to the RM software to mount a tape volume, the request includes data transfer rate, data access time, etc. (see col. 6, L. 16-21). Based on the request, RM software determines how many physical tape devices are necessary, and selects the physical tape devices to compose a virtual tape device. After that, RM software tells host computer that the virtual tape device is ready. The request does not designate the specific tape device that is to be used by users.
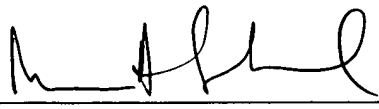
Similarly, Kitamura and Pothapragada teach a method that receives device assignment requests from users or other host computers. However, like in Nguyen, the requests of Kitamura and Pothapragada do not contain information to designate the specific devices or paths to the devices.

An embodiment of this invention includes GUI (Graphical User Interface) operable by users. The GUI displays storage resources, ports and controllers as graphical icons. The GUI can show which resources (e.g., storage devices) are in use or which resources are not in use. When the users want to use one or more storage resources not in use, the users specify the resources by clicking it with mouse. Claims 1-20 as amended require the demand or request to

specify either the path to a resource or the resource itself. None of Nguyen, Kitamura or Pothapragada teach such a technique. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims overcome the cited art and the application is now in condition for allowance.
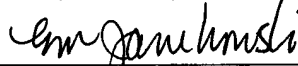
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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Eileen Janikowski